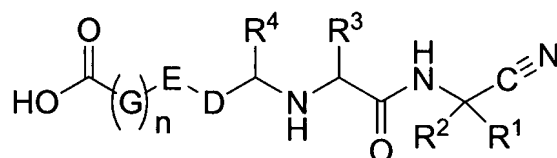


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) The present invention relates to compounds of the following chemical formula:



wherein R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₂₋₆ alkenyl wherein said alkyl and alkenyl groups are optionally substituted with one to six halo, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, -SR⁵, -SOR⁵, -SO₂R⁵, -SO₂CH(R^a)(R^b), -OR⁵, -N(R⁵)₂, or aryl, ~~heteroaryl or heterocyclyl~~ wherein said aryl, ~~heteroaryl and heterocyclyl~~ groups ~~are is~~ optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, halo, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy and keto;

R² is is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₂₋₆ alkenyl wherein said alkyl and alkenyl groups are optionally substituted with one to six halo, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, -SR⁵, -SOR⁵, -SO₂R⁵, -SO₂CH(R^a)(R^b), -OR⁵, -N(R⁵)₂, or aryl, ~~heteroaryl or heterocyclyl~~ wherein said aryl, ~~heteroaryl and heterocyclyl~~ groups ~~are is~~ optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, halo, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy and keto;

or R¹ and R² can be taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form a C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl ~~or heterocyclyl~~ ring wherein said ring system is optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, or halo;

R³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₂₋₆ alkenyl wherein said alkyl and alkenyl groups are optionally substituted with C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl or one to six halo;

R⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with 1-6 halo;

D is aryl ~~or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group~~, which may be monocyclic or bicyclic, is optionally substituted on either the carbon or the heteroatom with one to five substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, haloalkyl, halo, keto, alkoxy, -SR⁵, -OR⁵, N(R⁵)₂, -SO₂R⁵, and -SO₂R^a;

E is aryl or heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl group, which may be monocyclic or bicyclic, is optionally substituted on either the carbon or the heteroatom with one to five substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, haloalkyl, halo, keto, alkoxy, -SR⁵, -OR⁵, N(R⁵)₂, -SO₂R⁵, and -SO₂R^a;

Each G is independently C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyloxy, aryl, heteroaryl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, -O-, NR⁵, S(O)_m, or carbonyl wherein said groups are optionally substituted on either the carbon or the heteroatom with one to five substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, halo, keto, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, -OR⁵, -NHS(O)₂R⁵, -SO_mR⁵, -SO_mN(R^a)(R^b), -C(R^a)(R^b)OH, heterocyclyl, or aryl or heteroaryl;

R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁₋₄)alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C₁₋₄)alkyl, C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, or C₃₋₈cycloalkyl(C₁₋₄)alkyl, or heterocyclyl(C₁₋₄)alkyl wherein said groups can be optionally substituted with one, two, or three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, alkoxy, cyano, -NR^a or -SR^a or -SO_mR⁵;

R^a is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl which is optionally substituted with one, two, or three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo and -OR⁵;

R^b is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl which is optionally substituted with one, two, or three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo and -OR⁵;

or R^a and R^b can be taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached or are between them to form a C₃₋₈ heterocyclyl ring which is optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, halo, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy and keto;

m is an integer from zero to two;

n is an integer from one to three;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or stereoisomer or N-oxide derivative thereof.

2. (Original) The compound of Claim 1 wherein R¹ and R² can be taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form a C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl ring wherein said ring system is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl and halo.

3. (Original) The compound of Claim 2 wherein R³ is C₁₋₆ alkyl which is optionally substituted with one to six halo.

4. (Original) The compound of Claim 3 wherein R³ is n-propyl, isobutyl, 2-fluoro-2-methylpropyl, 2-trifluoromethylpropyl, 3-fluoro-2-(2-fluoromethyl)propyl, 2,2-difluoroethyl, 2,2-difluoropropyl, 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl, or 2,2-dichloroethyl.

5. (Original) The compound of Claim 2 wherein R⁴ is difluoromethyl, 2,2-difluoroethyl, trifluoromethyl or 3,3,3,2,2-pentafluoroethyl.

6. (Original) The compound of Claim 5 wherein D is phenyl.

7. (Currently Amended) The compound of Claim 6 wherein E is phenyl or heteroaryl.

8. (Original) The compound of Claim 7 wherein each G is independently C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl or SO_mCH(R^a)(R^b).

9. (Currently Amended) The compound of Claim 1 which is:
1-[4'-[(1S)-1-[[[(1S)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-fluoro-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl][1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl]-cyclopropanecarboxylic acid;

*N*¹-(1-cyanocyclopropyl)-*N*²-{(1S)-2,2-difluoro-1-{4'-[1-(carboxy)cyclopropyl]biphenyl-4-yl}-ethyl}-L-leucinamide;

*N*¹-(1-cyanocyclopropyl)-*N*²-{(1S)-2,2-difluoro-1-{4'-[1-(carboxy)cyclopropyl]biphenyl-4-yl}-ethyl}-4-fluoro-L-leucinamide;

~~1-[2-[4-[(1S)-1-[[[(1S)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-fluoro-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl]phenyl]-4-thiazolyl]-cyclopropanecarboxylic acid;~~

1-[4'-[(1S)-1-[[[(1S)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2-difluoroethyl][1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl]methyl]-cyclobutanecarboxylic acid;

4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-fluoro-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl]- α,α -dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-propanoic acid;

1-[4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl][1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl]-cyclopropanecarboxylic acid;

1-[4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-fluoro-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl][1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl]-cyclopropanecarboxylic acid;

4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-fluoro-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl]- α -methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid;

4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-fluoro-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl]- α,α -dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid;

1-[4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-fluoro-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl][1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl]-cyclopropaneacetic acid;

1-[4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl][1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl]-cyclopropanecarboxylic acid;

1-[4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]butyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl][1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl]-cyclopropanecarboxylic acid;

4'-[(1*S*)-1-[(1*S*)-1-[(1-cyanocyclopropyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-fluoro-3-methylbutyl]amino]-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl]-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid;

*N*¹-(1-cyanocyclopropyl)-4-fluoro-*N*²-((1*S*)-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-{4'-[(1*S*)-1-carboxyethyl]biphenyl-4-yl}-ethyl)-L-leucinamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; or stereoisomer ~~or N-oxide derivatives~~ thereof.

10. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. Withdrawn

12. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and another agent selected from the group consisting of: an organic bisphosphonate, an estrogen receptor modulator, an estrogen receptor beta modulator, an androgen receptor modulator, an inhibitor of osteoclast proton ATPase, an inhibitor of HMG-CoA reductase, an integrin receptor antagonist, or an osteoblast anabolic agent, a Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, a selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, an inhibitor of interleukin-1 beta, a LOX/COX inhibitor and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and mixtures thereof.

13. Withdrawn